



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES OVER \$630,000 IN GRANTS TO ASSIST RI FIREFIGHTERS

*Funds will be Distributed to Fire Departments in
Newport, Providence, Coventry, and Hope*

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has notified him that \$638,747 in grants will be distributed to fire departments in Newport, Providence, Coventry, and Hope. The funds, distributed by the DHS Office for Domestic Preparedness, will be used to purchase new firefighting vehicles, as well as for training, equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

“I am happy these funds have been made available to make certain that our firefighters have the most effective and up-to-date training and equipment possible,” Senator Chafee said. “As a member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I will work diligently to ensure that Rhode Island’s firefighters continue to receive funds such as these, to protect themselves and the people of our state. I am pleased that the Bush Administration continues its commitment to making first-responder funding a priority,” he continued.

Of the total award, the Providence Fire Department will receive \$308,661 for the purchase of fifteen 12-lead electrocardiograph (EKG) monitors. These monitors can be hooked up onsite to individuals complaining of chest pain or other heart problems and will give an accurate assessment of the status of the person’s heart. With the purchase of these monitors, the Providence Fire Department will be able to detect and treat heart problems faster, resulting in a lower death rate. The monitors will be placed in vehicles in 12-14 engine companies throughout the city, allowing a monitor to be on site within 2-4 minutes. Funds have been appropriated under the Operations and Fire Safety (OFS) program.

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Also under the OFS program, the Newport Fire Department has been awarded \$175,736 to be used for programs designed to provide training, purchase equipment and protective gear, maintain wellness and fitness, as well as to modify fire stations and other facilities.

Additionally, the Washington Fire District in Coventry has been given \$41,850 under the OFS program for the purchase of a diesel exhaust system. The system is designed to rid the fire station of diesel exhaust that is created whenever a firefighting apparatus is started. This will improve cleanliness within the station.

Finally, the Hope-Jackson Fire Company in Hope will receive \$112,500 under the firefighting vehicle acquisition program. The funds will be used for the purchase of a rapid attack truck, with four-wheel drive capability, which will allow the department to effectively protect the state's water supply around the reservoir.

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